

Campus Chronicles

Christmas 2011 Issue



Mathare Medical Mission, by Khadeejah Ali-Bailey

“Bwana sifawe! Praise the Lord!” was heard from thousands this past weekend in the poorest neighborhood in Kenya. The Mathare Slums are plagued with joblessness, sickness, and hopelessness. The dark cloud that overshadows life there is immense. The people are aware of it; unfortunately, most have succumbed to the darkness and despair. However, God swept through with change when a ministry team traveled there with doctors, medicine and the hope of Christ in hand.

Mathare Slums is located in Nairobi, Kenya and holds more than 500,000 residents. Hoping for a better life, most have moved to the city of Mathare from their native villages. However, they have been met with a much different outcome than expected. With no running water and insufficient sanitation, disease is a way of life. It is suggested that 70% of all residents are HIV positive. Aids, Tuberculosis and complications of Typhoid are top killers in Mathare. Though, we could not fix all of Mathare’s problems, we did try and put a dent in them.

EPIC student, Pastor Martin Mwangi was given a burden to help these people by hosting a 3-day medical camp where the residents could be treated for various ailments. Francis Kageche and I were “sold on” the vision and collaborated with him to bring this mission to fruition. Nurse Francis was joined by four doctors and three

additional nurses. Children and adults were provided with de-wormers and antibiotics for various infections. We gave medicine for eye, ear and skin infections. Open wounds were treated and bandaged, and we gave away over 400 toothbrushes and toothpaste and 150 reading glasses. To my surprise, I served as a pharmacist on the mission field, [I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me], filling hundreds of prescriptions of eye drops and ear drops for infection, amoxicillin, Tylenol for pain, abendazole for worms and tetracycline for skin rashes.

Continued on page 3



EPIC student, Khadeejah Ali-Bailey bows in prayer with orphans.

Important Dates:

Christmas Break Starts:

Monday, December 19

College Offices are Closed:

December 23, 26 & 30

Classes Resume:

Monday, January 2



The Gift of Love: A Christmas Story, by Paulina Quesada

Over the weekend, we drove to Sloughouse to cut down our Christmas tree. As a family, we celebrate and give thanks to God for our salvation. It is tradition to light a warm fire and fill the house with the smell of freshly baked sugar cookies and piping hot peppermint flavored hot cocoa is served.

This is an exciting time for us, and it reminded me of a time before we accepted God's gift of salvation. Just eight years ago, I was near death, literally. I was dealing with an extremely difficult pregnant with my second son, Jordan Paul. Due to major complications of premature labor, I was placed on bed rest at only sixteen weeks and was in bed throughout the remainder of my pregnancy. [My doctors had always advised me to not have any children due to a high risk of not being able to carry to full term.]

As my pregnancy progressed, I grew weaker and weaker each day and could no longer eat. I quickly fell into a deep depression. In fact, I lost a significant amount of weight, rather than gain wait during the pregnancy. No matter what I did, I sank deeper and deeper emotionally. Mentally, I had just shut down and checked out. Little did I know that God had a plan for my life and a plan for my unborn son.

As Christmas drew closer, I felt very anxious and fearful that my two year old son, C.J. would not have a Christmas present to open up on Christmas morning. To make matters worse his third birthday was the day after Christmas. I remember being in my room and crying out to God in desperation and great

anguish. I could not understand why I was in such a desolate place. I prayed to God to help me to live for Him, for my family, and especially my unborn child. It wasn't really about Christmas; it was about Jesus because I had realized that I needed Him to come into my life. I knew I was completely helpless, but He was there with me.

In that moment, I felt His love and presence fill my room, and His peace permeated my very being. Instantly, my burden was lifted and my Spirit was overwhelmed by His amazing love. The next day, on Christmas Eve, the doorbell rang. When my husband went to the door, there was no one there. There were a multitude of beautiful Christmas packages--the entire porch was covered. There were gifts for everyone in my family including the makings for an elaborate Holiday Meal. My husband told me what he had found and then handed me a small note that shared the heartfelt love of Christ. Apparently, our Christian neighbors and a local church (that I never been to) that set up this surprise! During my darkest hour, my family was blessed through the love and kindness of Christian brothers and sisters. These strangers felt compassion for a family in great need and answered God's call. A short time later, I gave my life to Christ and received the precious gift of His love and Salvation.

Today, my entire family is serving God, including my children's father, who recently turned his life over to Jesus. Glory to God! When I look at my boys brimming with excitement during this special time of the year--the extraordinary birth of our Savior--I cannot help but give honor to God for a debt that was paid in full by His son, Jesus. I can attest that His atoning blood and His grace are sufficient during the most difficult times of our lives.

Medical Mission, continued from page 1

Most importantly, God showed up in a mighty way. Pastor Martin and the Mathare Pastor Fellowship were able to minister to dozens of people who wanted to accept Christ. Many gave testimonies of how they had seen the medical camp in their dreams and how much hope the experience had brought to the people of Mathare. Some professed how the medical camp had actually saved their lives. Their hearts were touched to learn that there were people in America who care and pray for them.

Our God cares for the people of Mathare more than we could ever imagine. He simply used us to show that love. Even though we were there just three days, His love will last a lifetime.

Overall, the mission was successful. Prayers were answered. People were healed. Souls were saved. Praise the LORD!

The President on Vacation,

from an editorial by Paul Scicchitano, [NewsMax.com](#)

A recent article by Paul Scicchitano quoted Dana Perino, who was White House press secretary for President George W. Bush, that President Obama's 17-day Hawaii vacation "looks bad."

President Barack Obama is sending the wrong message with his family enjoying a sunny, 17-day Hawaiian vacation funded in part with U.S. tax dollars while millions of Americans settle for a blue Christmas. Although the Obama's will pay for the private, Hawaiian, beach-front villa with their own money, the residual cost will likely be over \$1 million for U.S. taxpayers. This expense is to cover the added security and accommodations for the president's entourage and transportation, based on estimates from Hawaiian media organizations.

Perino said. "For me, it is perception — Martha's Vineyard [or] Hawaii. If you are going to places like that and for 17 days, you are asking for trouble." Last year, the *Hawaii Reporter* "calculated the taxpayer bill for one Obama vacation in Hawaii to be in excess of \$1.5 million — for a running total of about \$6 million since [he] was elected president."

I know the president works hard, and that he will continue to work while on vacation. However, the nation is in trillions of dollars of debt, and most Americans are going without this Christmas. Why should our tax dollars go toward a Hawaiian vacation when children are going hungry and families are living on the streets? It's obvious that politicians have forgotten they are public servants. So, isn't enough, enough?



Pastor Martin Mwangi
ministering to
children in Kenya.

SUPPORT OUR HEROS

One way you can support
our troops who are
wounded is by sending
Christmas Cards!

HOLIDAY MAIL FOR
HEROS

Po Box 5456

Capitol Heights, MD
20791-5456

5 ways to keep **Christ** in Christmas . . . adapted from Focus on the Family



Children in the classroom & on campus

by Prof. Tana Colburn, Dean of Women

Last week you received a notice from the Office of the Vice-President of Academics regarding the policy of guests on campus and in the classroom. Of particular importance is the aspect of children on campus and in the classroom.

We at EPIC are committed to providing the best possible learning atmosphere for all of our students. As the notice said: "Children in the classroom are a distraction to students and professors as well as the parent/adult supervisor." If you do not have child care available for your child(ren) while you are at school, this can create a serious personal conflict, especially for the single parent.

One of the suggestions I make to my students is to connect with another parent and arrange to trade off on childcare duties. For example: if you have class on Tuesday nights, find a student-parent who has class on Thursday nights. Then agree to watch your and each other's children while the other parent is in class.

1. Read a portion of the Christmas Story from the Bible every day. Take turns reading the story. An Advent calendar from a Christian bookstore is a great visual aid.
2. Encourage kids to give a "special gift to Jesus for His birthday—one that only He knows about. It could be spending more time talking to Him, being kind to new friend at school, or trying harder to include a younger sibling.
3. Set a good example by always saying "Merry Christmas" in response to "Happy Holidays" while doing your Christmas shopping.
4. Try not to pass up the Salvation Army buckets—even if it's just a handful of loose change. You might even sign up to volunteer ringing the bell.
5. Start Christmas morning by thanking God for the gift of His son, Jesus. You might even bake a birthday cake and sing!

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